



DUM SPIRO SPERO
WHILE I BREATHE, I HOPE.

MACLENNAN

NEWSLETTER

Central Ontario Branch

CANADA

Special Report from the Clan Chief Ruairidh MacLennan

Report on special meeting of members of Clan MacLennan (UK) on Saturday 15' March 2003 at The Old Mill, Dores, Inverness, Scotland.

Report by Chief Ruairidh MacLennan.

In attendance:

Chief Ruairidh

Fiona & David Downie

Roddy MacLennan (London)

Hamish MacLennan (Kiltarlity)

Donald MacLennan (Dingwall)

Kirsten MacLennan (Melbourne)

Apologies:

James MacLennan (Glasgow), Christine and Malcolm Watson, Margo MacLennan, arry Mhairi MacLennan, Jimmy & Sandra MacLennan, Peter Logan

Introduction

Due to the absence of a meeting of the Clan MacLennan Association Scotland (UK) for some time, the above meeting was called by Chief Ruairidh and held at the Old Mill, Dores, Inverness. The meeting was of an informal nature and no minutes were taken and therefore this report is my own interpretation of the discussions. As very few people got much of a chance to say anything apart from myself, I believe that this is a fairly accurate account!

Summary of position

Clan MacLennan Scotland's lack of meetings and newsletter and the recent demise of the Web Site have led to the belief that we are no longer operating as an Association. This is certainly not the case and the level of communication, now

almost entirely through E-mail, indicates that there is more communication going on nationally and internationally than ever before. Personally, I have certainly received more correspondence now than I ever have in 14 years as Chief. 90% of this is through the electronic highway.

To successfully move forward as a useful and purposeful Association, there is need for some serious changes to the way that we are operating as an Association, especially in the UK. Short term remedies and longer-term visions are essential. There is a need to take a snapshot at where we are now as an Association, consider where we should be going, and implementing the changes required.

The current position

Is joining Clan MacLennan UK value for

Continued on page 2

FROM THE PRESIDENT

International Clan MacLennan web site

Greetings Clanfolks

We have had one of the longest feeling winters on record, I'm sure. Many of us in Canada, east to west are finding it hard to believe that the Highland Games have begun across our country. We've been glad for the warmth of the wool this year.

Clan MacLennan Canada is pleased to advise our member families and friends of some exciting developments. After many months of long work and communications, Bruce MacLennan of Sydney, Australia has spearheaded the construction of an International Web Site. The three Australian Clan Associations (Melbourne, Grafton, and New South Wales/ACT) Scotland and the United States are all sharing in the effort to raise Clan awareness on a global scale.



Melanie MacLennan

The resulting tribute to this teamwork, is www.clan.maclennan.com

As we, in Canada already had our website up and running we will be linked as well to this site and will provide a reciprocal link.

In mutual interest of International profile, we have agreed, indeed, encouraged the Yahoo Group (that our own Angus MacLennan set up last year) be used as an worldwide tool to facilitate communications between Clan members. The opportunities for this 'Message Board' are wonderfully grand. Not only can simple notes, questions, newsy bits and announcements, be broadcast efficiently and timely, but also photos, requests for history or info and upcoming events and functions can be made known easily and affordably. Please take a few moments and sign up to:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/clanmaclennan/>

and meet your Clansmen across the seas.

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**CLAN MACLENNAN
CENTRAL ONTARIO
BRANCH**



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Ruairidh Donald George MacLennan of
MacLennan

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Gregory Scott MacLennan

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Elizabeth Prebble, Burlington
David MacLennan, Dundas

Chief's letter (Continued from page 1)

money? What do you get in return for joining the Association and basically what do we do as an Association? These are the key questions that need to be considered when looking at a forward strategy for the Association today.

In recent years, Clan MacLennan UK has concentrated its activities around Committee meetings held approximately two / three times per year. These meetings have often been stagnated by the internal politics of the Clan Association and too much emphasis has been on looking back to the past. The meetings have become the reason for the Association's existence with the overall objective being lost and the result being a very disillusioned group of people wondering what our purpose is as an Association.

Unless we are going to organize or do something, there is no point in having such formal and stagnated meetings and it is my proposal that we move away from the Committee based Association to one, which is far more flexible and enjoyable. Therefore I propose that the Association meet only for social occasions, during which, brief meetings can take place where necessary.

The absence of a newsletter, social gatherings, Internet site means that new members are not getting anything in return for their membership money. No one will pay money to join an Association for the privilege of sitting through a Committee meeting which discussed past rifts and other gloomy

Clan matters. We therefore need to consider how we are going to move our Association forward and how does this affect membership.

The Forward Strategy.

In recent years, the importance of the Internet has staggered me. The E-mails that I have received from people getting my E-mail address from the Clan site far exceeds levels of communication that I have had in the past. On a recent visit to the Pipes and Drums of Zurich in Switzerland (who wear MacLennan tartan), I was amazed at how much each of the pipe band members knew about the Clan due to our website. I was too embarrassed to mention to them that the site had come to the Internet just days previous to my visit. On a recent visit as guest speaker to the Caledonian Society of Sheffield's St Andrew's Ball, the President thanked me for mentioning my visit to Sheffield on our Clan website. I believe, without doubt that a successful and up-to-date web site which has links to all Clan MacLennan sites, is the sole most important tool for bringing the Association's to MacLennan's throughout the world. Amongst other things, the site should have a message board section, which allows people to make enquiries that can be answered by various Clansfolk. The site should have details of recent and forthcoming Clan activities with photographs and very importantly, links to all MacLennan sites. This is an area where all MacLennan Associations / Groups need to ensure unity and I also suggest that none of these sites

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FAMILY FOCUS - CLAN MACLENNAN FAMILY RESEARCH

David MacLennan - Ottawa Ontario - June, 2002

Dear Family Researcher,
I understand that you may be interested in MacLennan family research.

The MacLennan Clan recently extended its Web site to reach Clan connections worldwide. The new site is the result of co-operation between Clan associations in Scotland, USA, Australia, Canada and New Zealand. You will find it at:
<http://www.clan.maclennan.com>.

The site includes a "Beginner's Guide to family research" with resource links to over 6,000 research sites. Clan MacLennan WorldWide would like to provide a facility by which your branch of our Clan could be matched up with other researcher's family trees.

GenCircles.com has been selected as a central repository and matching service for our Clan for this purpose. GenCircles is a non-profit site that has set up a database allowing family researchers to match their family history information with all others who have uploaded their own GEDCOM files to the

GenCircles Global Tree. The "SmartMatching", as it is called, will match any individuals on your file with others who are in/on the Global Tree database. The great thing about this program is that it is also interactive, while protecting privacy. This means that if you are matched you can contact your match to further share your information if so desired. There is no cost for using GenCircles. To find out more about the MacLennan database please visit our page:

www.clan.maclennan.com/gen/database.htm and
www.gencircles.com/users/maclennan .

We invite you to take advantage of this wonderful facility by loading your GEDCOM file to GenCircles. Please pass this message on to anyone else whom you know is interested in MacLennan family research?

Yours in Kinship,

David MacLennan
Clan MacLennan, WorldWide Database Coordinator

Minutes of the Clan MacLennan Annual General Meeting

Saturday, August 10, 2002 Board Room, Community Centre, Fergus, ON

President Melanie called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. with 14 members present. She welcomed the group noting the old stalwart members as well as some new faces, David and Ruth.

The minutes of last Annual General meeting had been circulated. It was moved by Robin and seconded by Eileen that the minutes be approved.

Carried.

Business arising:

Melanie's e-mail address has been changed to melanie@londonhouse.ca

Treasurer's Report: The year end financial statement appeared in the November 2002 newsletter. The report for May 17, 2002 - August 8, 2002 had been circulated to those present, and showed a GIC of \$1,000 and a bank balance of \$1,906.58. The report was filed for audit.

New Business

1. Clan membership dues are presently set at \$10.00 per family at one address. After some discussion, it was decided to leave the dues at \$10 and strive for means of increasing memberships.
2. Membership stands at 83 families, with about 40% having sent in e-mail addresses. Concern was expressed about distribution of the lists of email and snail mail addresses to all members or whether these should be available only to the members of the executive. In the next newsletter the question will be put to all members. A letter of invitation to join the clan had been drafted by Flora, and was read aloud by President Melanie. Flora offered to send the letter to any name submitted to her and to pay for the cost of this venture. This excellent letter may serve as a guide for others to use to entice people to join the Clan.
3. Margaret MacLennan's memorial fund: Margaret was well known in the Clan and in her community for her good works, and the fund continues to grow. The current balance stands at almost \$6,000 and the interest from the fund will be used to assist a volunteer who has performed service to the community. Robin suggested in case of bereavements, that since the Clan cannot issue tax receipts, notice of the preferred charities be included in the newsletter and the donations should be made to the charity.

4. Executive resignations and replacements: Harold and Evelyn have resigned from the Executive and this was accepted with regrets. Margaret's death also has created a vacancy, and discussion of replacements followed. It was suggested that there be established recognition for the term on the board. Various suggestions were made and these will be pursued at a later date. President Melanie suggested that new executive members be included from the east and west as well as in Ontario. Attendance at meetings would not be required but their input would be most valuable. Brainstorming of ideas to help draw people into the clan and ways of making new members visible in their communities will be discussed in the future.
5. Yahoo site: Angus reported on the yahoo.com site as a mailing list which has interested many young people. There are many features that can be accessed, such as messages, photographs, archive of previous messages, etc. Angus will be investigating further.
6. Genealogical Repository: David M. briefly outlined his work on the repository of MacLennan history so far. He also offered to submit items to the newsletter.
7. Newsletter: President Melanie requested items for the newsletter to help make it more interesting and informative. The 16 page Melbourne, Australia newsletter was circulated showing photos, reports of gatherings, jokes, items for sale, births and deaths. It shows what can be done with greater input from all.
8. Dr. Miles is in hospital, and past president Dave is not well, and our concerns for their health were expressed.
9. Two items of business were left for a future meeting due to lack of time: review of games attendance by executive, and the change of information for advertising, associations, etc.

It was moved by Robin and seconded by Jean that the meeting be adjourned at 4:58.

Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois Walton

Secretary,

Clan MacLennan Canada (COB)

100th Birthday Celebration:

Margaret MacLennan - Born March 16, 1903

On March 16, 2003, it was my privilege to be in Scotland for the 100th birthday celebration of my aunt Maggie. Margaret Smith was born Margaret Walker MacLennan on March 16, 1903 at Leochel Cushnie, Aberdeenshire, where her father was a gamekeeper at Craigievar Castle. Guests gathered at Halcrow Stadium in Gretna for the occasion that began with the Lord Lieutenant of Dumfries presenting greetings from the Queen, followed by greetings from Westminster. Family members representing five generations came from many parts of Scotland and England. I had traveled from Newfoundland and my son Keith and his twenty-two month old son, Aidan, came from Vermont for the celebration. After the many guests offered their congratulations, a buffet meal followed. At this time I read the letter of congratulations sent by the

Chief of Clan MacLennan, Ruairidh Donald George MacLennan. The oldest grandson, Alec Smith, gave a speech paying tribute to his grandmother for the impact she had had, on his life. His brother, Kenneth Smith, read a multi verse poem of his own composition, documenting various events in the Margaret's life including also the parts in which we, the various family members, had participated in her life's journey. The highlight of the afternoon was a visual presentation on a large screen showing many photographs of people, places and events which covered the 100 year span of this very wonderful and well loved lady.

Noreen MacLennan
St. Johns Newfoundland

Dumfries & Galloway STANDARD

www.inside-scotland.co.uk/dumandgall

Friday, 21st March 2003

55p



South of Scotland's best-selling newspaper



The region's newest centenarian, great-grandmother Mrs Margaret Smith receives her birthday telegram from the Queen.

100 years old

GRETNA resident Mrs Margaret Smith became the region's latest centenarian on Sunday.

The great-grandmother celebrated her birthday milestone surrounded by family and friends at a reception at the Halcrow Stadium.

The highlight of the day was receiving an official birthday telegram from The Queen, presented by a Deputy Lord-Lieutenant of Dumfriesshire, Mr David Stevenson.

A keen churchgoer in Gretna, where she has lived since 1981 to be near her son Archie after the death of her husband, Sandy, Margaret (nee MacLennan) was born in Leochel Cushnie, Aberdeenshire, on March 16, 1903.

Her father was a gamekeeper at Craigievar Castle where she used to play in the grounds with her brother Hugh, when they were children.

She met her husband, Alexander Smith, who was known as Sandy, while in service in Glasgow to the Bowden Family.

The couple moved to Sandy's native Crieff and they lived

there for over 60 years raising their son, Archie, and daughter, Margaret.

While Sandy was a police officer with Perth and Kinross police force — a profession also chosen by her son and a grandson — Margaret is noted by her family for having "silver fingers" and became a self-taught tailoress.

Her son, Archie said: "She loved to sew knit and crochet and was an expert at them all. She now loves crosswords and does not like to be beaten by one. Quizzes are another favourite."

Ten Kids

Hi Folks:

Greetings from beautiful B.C. The War and Weather seem to be universal topics, so I won't bore you with B.C. weather, except we had a mild winter and early spring, a skiff of snow last week, after breakfast and reading the paper it was gone-probably east.

Anyway I suggested the photo for Newsletter- It is of 10 children all MacLennan's or "Nee" MacLennan's '50's vintage. and I have a nice prize for whoever can name them. Prize open to members of Clan, and entries sent to me. I am sure at least 7 of those in photo are members. Elva and I are well. Elva's cataract Op. coming nicely- after the first Op. botched [she had to have it done over] Rest of family hear doing well also, growing like ??? Sault Ste. Marie gang is busy - watch for a Richard MacLennan. 2 gold 1 silver in Canadian Championship Speed Skating, when he is not playing on rep. hockey team. We are looking forward to Fergus Games.

Disappointing not hearing anything from Scotland. Chief seems very active, cruise in Caribbean that was advertised in Scottish banner. Sorry I am not up to computer lingo-use, trust it is busy and spreading clan happenings across the country. Best wishes to all and trust many will gather in Fergus.

Yours Aye,

Doug. and Elva MacLennan



Searching for his relatives

The following is a letter I received from Geoff McLennan of Bundoora, Victoria, Australia. Dated September 7th, 2002

I am Geoff McLennan, Treasurer of the Melbourne Branch of the Clan. Our President Max gave me a copy of your email 17 May 2002.

I wonder if you may be able to assist in some family history. My grandfather came to Australia in 1889 at the age of 3 with his parents and siblings. They came from Peterhead, Aberdeenshire. They were part of a large family, but we have not been able to trace any of them in Scotland since 1891. We believe one of them went to New Zealand but do not know which one. Therefore we think maybe the rest of the family may have gone to Canada or U.S.A. Could you ask your members if they have any connection to any of the following:

Alexander McLennan believed to have been born in Inverness who married Margaret Watt in Keith Banffshire on 21 May 1853.

Their children were:

Agnes born 1853 in Keith, believed to have died young

- John born 21 August 1855 in Keith, married Ellen and lived

in Peterhead

- James Shepherd born 11 July 1858 in Keith, married Sarah Smith Watt and came to Australia
- Margaret Ann Gray born 10 June 1860 in Keith, married James Bruce 1882
- Isabella born 23 March 1864 in St. Nicholas
- Helen born 14 November 1866, had a daughter Maggie J. Donald born 1890 in London
- Alexander born 2 May 1869, in Peterhead
- Georgina born 24 January 1872 in Peterhead, married Alexander Thom 3 February 1899

Records in Scotland do not show that any of these people died in Scotland so they must have gone somewhere. Any assistance you can give would be appreciated. Any reply can be sent to jaynemclennan@bigpond.com.au

Regards,

Geoff McLennan

Geoff & Marion McLennan

11 Gleeson Drive

Bundoora Victoria 3083

Australia

Overheard at the local pub...

Did you here the one about....

A friend hosted a Robbie Burns supper for friends and family and encouraged everyone to bring their children. Throughout the dinner, one three-year-old girl kept staring at an older gent in his Scottish garb, who was sitting across from her. Because she kept staring, he checked his kilt, shirt, tie, felt his face for food, patted his hair in place, but nothing stopped her from staring at him. He tried his best to just ignore her but finally it was too much for him. He asked her, “

Why are you staring at me?” Everyone at the table had noticed her behavior and the table fell silent waiting for her reply. The little girl said, “My Dad said you drink like a fish and I just want to see how you do it”.

Then there was the story about ...

Iain, who is returning to Scotland and comes up to the English border on his bicycle. He's got two large bags over his shoulders. The guard stops him and says, “What's in the bags?” “Beach sand,”

answered Iain. “We'll just see about that. Get off the bike!” The guard takes the bags and rips them apart; he empties them out and finds nothing in them but sand. He detains Iain overnight and has the sand analyzed, only to discover that there is nothing but pure sand in the bags. The guard releases Iain, puts the sand into new bags, hefts them onto the man's shoulders, and lets him cross the border.

A week later, the same thing happens. The guard asks, “What have you got?” “Beach sand,” says Iain. The guard does his thorough examination and discovers that the bags contain nothing but sand. He gives the sand back to Iain, and Iain crosses the border on his bicycle. This sequence of events is repeated every week for three years. Finally, Iain doesn't show up one day and the guard happens to meet him in a local pub.

“Hey, Iain,” says the guard, “I know you are smuggling something. It's driving me crazy. It's all I think about...I can't sleep. Just between you and me, what are you smuggling?” Iain sips his pint and replies, “Bicycles.”

Members News

From Wee Donald and Dorothy:

Dear Friends,

We finally listened to all of you and retired this past year, Dorothy in May and Don followed in June. We are not doing anything we had planned for or wished to do. Because of our health challenges we require assisted living facilities. We sold the house in New York and are now living near our son Andrew in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, near Pittsburg. Our addresses are:

Dorothy MacLennan	Donald MacLennan
896 Weatherwood Lane, 318	Westmorland Manor, C2-219
Greensburg PA 15601	2860 S. Grande Blvd.
(724) 832-5697	Greensburg PA 15601
	(724) 832-1558

We hope you will forgive our failure to correspond, but changes are coming faster than we can keep up with them. Dorothy's health remains good, but she tires easily. Don had a neurological event in March which made typing, holding a telephone, and talking very hard to do. Thankfully our children rescued us by helping sell the house and moving us here.

Hopefully, you had a better and less eventful year. Please write or call to tell us so. (Eileen and I sent best wishes to Don and Dorothy in January. This was a letter, which also turned up in the Melbourne Newsletter; so if you knew them, feel free to get in touch - Robin)

Statement of Receipts & Disbursements May 17, 2002 - January 31, 2003

Elizabeth Prebble

Receipts

Bank Balance	May 17, 2002		\$1,890.49
Members Dues	-2000-2001	\$ 10.00	
	-2001-2002	\$ 30.00	
	-2002-2003	\$350.00	
	-2003-2004	\$ 20.00	
	-2004-2005	\$ 10.00	\$420.00

Clan Sales	- Fort Erie	\$ 1.00	
	-Kincardine	\$ 40.25	
	- Maxville	\$ 43.00	
	- Fergus	\$144.5	\$228.75

Donations	-General	\$ 30.00	
	- Memorial	\$ 40.00	\$ 70.00
Fergus Dinner Draw			\$ 84.00
G.I.C. interest			\$ 11.50
			\$ 814.25
			\$2,704.74

Disbursements

Fergus Avenue of Clans		\$ 54.00	
July Newsletter	Copy	\$ 50.00	
	- Postage	\$ 44.38	
	- Envelopes	\$ 3.28	\$ 97.66

Margaret MacLennan Community Service Fund		\$ 200.00	
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Services Charges		\$ 3.00	\$ 354.66
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Bank Balance as of January 31, 2003			\$2,350.08
Investment Royal Bank G.I.C.			\$,1000.00
Clan MacLennan Canada Total			\$3,350.08

Editors Notes - by Robin MacLennan

Hello again. I am sorry that we didn't manage a newsletter last September. As many of you know, last year was chaotic and, apart from going to the Games, I could not give enough time to Clan matters. We had better get back to normal, however, because the lack of Clan news appears to be having an effect on the number of unpaid dues. In fact, about the only regular newsletter coming in is from Melbourne, Australia there hasn't been one from Scotland for about two years now. I know many people have email, I have even joined the tribe, but the lack of local news can lead to a fall off in membership when you feel your branch isn't doing enough to encourage members to participate. We trust this issue will bring us all up to date. Back to back with this newsletter, you can expect another newsletter in short order to bring the summer news and info for the AGM.

For those who missed the AGM at Fergus last August, let me do a quick recap. We had 14 at the meeting, which lasted 58 minutes neither figure being a record for the Branch. Apart from the usual reports on finances, Games reps reports and general discussion, the following items are of interest:

- Dues to remain at \$10 per family, provided we can maintain or increase membership
- Should members addresses, including email addresses, be made available to all members? Please advise your views on this question.
- Harold and Evelyn have resigned from the Executive, so there are now three vacancies. Volunteers, or names of those who might be interested are welcome. These can include members outside Ontario who can contribute input. Contact our president Melanie McLennan for more information.

If possible, notices of member's deaths will include names of preferred charities who can issue tax receipts. The Clan Association cannot issue such receipts because we are not a charitable organization.

Attendance by Executive members at various Games was reviewed. It seems that our member's health and transportation concerns have made attendance to all of the games more difficult. As well, increasing insurance costs have made attending various games more difficult and expensive. For now, we will attend Fergus and Maxville and as for any others, we will go if we can.

There is one item, however which is of vital importance and that is overdue subscriptions. In the past, we have

included a warning in the form of a cross, hand-marked on certain newsletters to draw attention to overdue subs. From now on, and for the purpose of clarity, we will use the following method to collect membership dues.

All paid up members should have a membership card showing "valid until May 31, 2003". If your card does not show this date, your dues for 2002/03 have not been received. In this case, please pay now for your 02/03 dues. As the new financial year, 2003/04 starts on June 1, the dues for the current year should be sent in as well. If your dues are outstanding for more than a year, you will no longer receive a mailed newsletter, except in special circumstances. Please check your card and contact Elizabeth ASAP if your dues are not up to date.

A general note to all our members, if you have any items of news or interest please pass them on to me.

My address and phone number are on the first page or my email is robinmac@vaxxine.com and I will try to include them in the Newsletter. The "COB News" is from COB members we have heard from, while the "News from Away" is from other branches or from overseas. We hope these items will increase.

International Clan MacLennan Web Site (Continued from page 1)

On the heels of all of this, David MacLennan of Ottawa, Canada is working on expanding the area of genealogical application to all of this. David is looking into alternate sites to hold family tree information. The advantage in promoting one site for all Clan members to access, is in the ability to find matches and/or duplication. The on-line data base will allow for all those bits of family history to be stored in one place, benefitting any of us searching for family connections can access. In the next newsletter we will be bringing you news on bringing the branches of our family trees together using some of the most recent tools.

David has been invited to contribute to the "new" Clan site and will be writing a short paper on how to research MacLennan ancestors. I'm quite interested in seeing how this part will come about. I am reminded though, of some sage words I recently overheard. "Be careful when you shake the family tree. There is bound to be a few nuts that will fall to the ground."

In view of the chief's proposed direction, we in the Canadian executive will be holding more discussion on this matter (free membership for all MacLennans - see Ruairidh's letter in this edition) at our AGM on August 9, 2003 at the Fergus games at 4:00 p.m. in the board room of the community centre on the grounds. In the event that you cannot attend this important meeting regarding the future direction of our association, your email and letters are welcome and will be considered in the discussion.

Chief Ruairidh has been greatly encouraged with these endeavours and pleased with the cooperation and enthusiasm that has propelled this project. To make it work, though, it will take the effort of participation by the Clans men and women throughout the world to bring the real fun and community to a reality.

Chief's letter (Continued from page 2)

includes any internal political information which will only damage the Clans appeal to new members. I do not think that it matters who sets up these sites or who controls them, but it is absolutely essential that they are properly managed and regularly updated in order that this is a success.

With this as our main tool for promoting the Clan and getting news to our members, what should we do about membership? The decision made at our meeting was that we could no longer accept membership money when access to our main communication tool is available to everyone anyway. If you are a MacLennan, surely that should be an automatic ticket to joining our Clan? You should only have to pay money if you are going to receive something in return for it. Therefore, we will have membership forms on-line which will allow us to get addresses / E-mail details of MacLennan's that can be entered into our E-mail database. This database can then be used for sending out electronic information of Clan activities, upcoming events etc.

There are some existing members and will be other people who do not have access to the Internet. In these situations, my intention would be to print off key pages of the web site every couple of months and mail these out my snail mail. These people would then be requested to pay an annual fee for the postage.

There is a lot of communication occurring within the Clan today but it is generally fragmented due to the non existence of a medium for this communication to be channeled through. If we are all pulling in the same direction, all with a clearer idea of what our purpose is, I believe that we will achieve great things as an Association.

Simply by looking at my father's Clan address book and comparing this to my E-mail address database, it is obvious how powerful this modern technology is in getting news and information out to our Clansfolk. The key is to organise this information and have consistency and purpose.

Providing MacLennan's world-wide with information on our Clan, assisting with genealogy and other enquiries, providing information on regional (international Clan contacts, the next key thing is the organisation and publicising of social activities. To start things off in Scotland, my proposal is that we start focusing on attending Highland Games within the Highlands and have this as one of our main social gatherings each year. The plan is to attend the Strathconnon Games each year followed by a BBQ at Dores. In time the hope is that we will widen this to attend a number of Highland Games throughout the Highlands each summer. The important thing is to ensure that we are meeting in a social context as an Association / Clan so that we always have a future event to advertise to potential Clan members.

Other ideas include making contact with the Clan MacRae and MacKenzie's to discuss the possibilities of holding joint dinners or ceilidhs. In time this could be widened to include a number of Highland Clans.

On the advertising side of things, the web site alone will be a powerful tool in delivering the message that there is an active Clan association. Other ideas include printing leaflets inviting MacLennan's to join their Clan free of charge and have the Clan web sites details on the leaflet. The other idea is simply to have car stickers made with the Clan web site address on them. Other ideas

that any of you might have would be much appreciated.

To conclude, the time is right for us to move away from the status quo and freshen up our Association to make it more relevant and attractive to MacLennan's throughout the world. We have to consider realistic and achievable goals and prevent internal Clan politics getting in the way of these goals. There is a need to move away from the Committee based / driven Association and concentrate on the two pronged role of 1) delivering our message through the Internet and 2) regularly meeting for social functions. There is nothing overly ambitious about any of this, it simply needs a few willing people to start the ball rolling and as long as we all have an active input and interest in the web-site, the rest will follow suit with time.

I apologise if this seems a bit of a ramble, there are a lot of thoughts swishing around at the moment and the hope is that some of you will think of ideas that come out of this and report these back to us.

There are many people within the Clan working on the web-site issue and the hope is that this issue will be resolved very soon. I would like to take this opportunity in thanking those people for the work they have put into this matter.

Yours aye
Chief Ruairidh



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